



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,009	11/29/2000	Leland James Wieschuegel	AUS9-2000-0738-US1	9657

7590 02/18/2004

Robert H. Frantz  
P.O. Box 23324  
Oklahoma City, OK 73123-2334

EXAMINER
----------

GRAHAM, CLEMENT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3628

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/726,009

Applicant(s)

WIESEHUEGEL ET AL.

Examiner

Clement B Graham

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 3628

## DETAILED ACTION

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action: (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 148 USPQ 459, that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
  4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or unobviousness.
3. Claims 1-21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin et al (Hereinafter Franklin U.S. Patent 6, 055, 518) in view of Harrington et al (Hereinafter Harrington U.S. Patent 6, 161, 099).

As per claim 1-21, , Franklin discloses a sales offering method for restricting access by traders to collected online sealed bids in an online offering and bidding system, said method comprising the steps of.(see column 2 lines 20-35) providing a computer-readable bid repository. ("i. e, server servers") of collected sealed bids .(i. e, secret bids") and communicative to an online offering and bidding system; unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process and resenting via a computer user interface said unsealed bids to a trader thereby preventing presentation of bids which are sealed to traders.(see column 8 lines 5-65 and column 9 lines 5-65).

Franklin fails to teach unsealed bids.

Art Unit: 3628

However Harrington discloses according to one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a computer implemented process comprised of the steps of: establishing communications over a network between an auctioneer's computer and a plurality of bidders' computers; providing information regarding financial instruments to be sold to potential bidders; submitting at least one of a maturity by maturity bid or an all-or-none bid via the bidder's computer; accepting one or more of the submitted bids; and displaying the current best bid while the auction is in process. Information in addition to the current best bid which may be displayed includes the identity of the bidder, showing the status of a plurality of bidders, or showing a no-bid status on a portion of the financial instrument. (see column 4 lines 35-45).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the teachings of Franklin to include unsealed bids taught by Harrington in order to conduct auctions particular original issuer municipal bond auctions, over electronic networks particularly the Internet.

#### Conclusion

4. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicants disclosure.

Fraser et al (US 6, 058, 379 Patent ) teaches real time network exchange with seller specified exchange parameters and interactive seller participation.

Fraser et al (US 6, 484, 153 Patent ) teaches system and method for managing third party input to a conditional purchase offer.

Art Unit: 3628

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clement B Graham whose telephone number is 703-305-1874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

CG

February 08, 2004

*FT and*  
*AC 3628*